

CLAIMS

1. An optical filter disposed in front of a screen, characterized by:

a circularly polarizing filter layer for converting outside light applied thereto into circularly polarized light and limiting the passage of circularly polarized light that is reflected by the screen and has its direction of polarization inverted.

2. The optical filter according to claim 1, characterized in that said optical filter is spaced a predetermined distance from said screen.

3. The optical filter according to claim 2, characterized in that said screen includes a plasma display panel.

4. The optical filter according to claim 1, characterized in that said circularly polarizing filter layer includes a combination of a linear polarizer positioned on a front side to which the outside light is applied, and a $1/4$ phase difference plate positioned on a rear side.

5. The optical filter according to claim 1, characterized in that said circularly polarizing filter layer is bonded to a glass substrate by an adhesive layer.

6. The optical filter according to claim 1, characterized by an antireflection film disposed on a front side to which the outside light is applied.

7. The optical filter according to claim 1, characterized in that said screen includes a self-emission screen.

8. An image display apparatus having an optical filter disposed in front of a screen, characterized in that:

said optical filter has a circularly polarizing filter layer for converting outside light applied thereto into circularly polarized light and limiting the passage of circularly polarized light that is reflected by the screen.

9. The image display apparatus according to claim 8, characterized in that said optical filter is spaced a predetermined distance from said screen.

10. The image display apparatus according to claim 9, characterized in that said screen includes a plasma display panel.

11. The image display apparatus according to claim 8, characterized in that said circularly polarizing filter layer includes a combination of a linear polarizer positioned on a front side to which the outside light is

applied, and a 1/4 phase difference plate positioned on a rear side.

12. The image display apparatus according to claim 8, characterized in that said circularly polarizing filter layer is bonded to a glass substrate by an adhesive layer.

13. The image display apparatus according to claim 8, characterized in that said optical filter has an antireflection film disposed on a front side to which the outside light is applied.

14. The image display apparatus according to claim 8, characterized in that said screen includes a self-emission screen.